GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:380
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2002
DOWRY PROHIBITION ACT
RAMDAS ATHAWALE;SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after enforcement of Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 there has been no reduction in dowry deaths and such cases are reported every day from one or the other State;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that the Dowry Prohibition Act is being misused at large scale throughout the country;

(c) if so, the number of cases relating to misuse of the provision of such Act that have come to the notice of the Government during the last five years till date;

(d) whether the Government have received any suggestions or requests from various social institutions or other people for making amendments in the aforesaid Act till date;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to make any amendment in Dowry Prohibition Act to make it more effective; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) As per the statistical data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi, the following number of incidents of dowry deaths were reported in the country during the years from 1997 to 1999:

Year	Number of cases of dowry deaths
1997	6006
1998	6917
1999	6699

(b),(c),(d),(e)&(f) There is no specific information about large scale misuse of the Dowry Prohibition Act throughout the country. No specific suggestions have been received by the Government for making amendments in the Dowry Prohibition Act. The National Commission for Women is in the process of reviewing the Dowry Prohibition Act and for that purpose, it has held 20 workshops in 20 States.